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By Sarah Allan

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Many Chinese philosophic concepts derive from an ancient cosmology. This work is the first reconstructions of the mythic thought of the Shang Dynasty (ca. 1700- 1100 B.C.) which laid the foundation for later Chinese patterns of thought. Allan regards the myth, cosmology, divination, sacrificial ritual, and art of the Shang as different manifestations of a common religious system and each is examined in turn, building up a coherent and consistent picture. Although primarily concerned with the Shang, this work also describes the manner in which Shang thought was transformed in the later textual tradition.

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Review

Allan's study will prove to be as invaluable as it is innovative. Harold D. Roth"

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About the Author

Sarah Allan is Lecturer in Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. Her previous books include *The Heir and the Sage: Dynastic Legend in Early China*; *Legend, Lore and Religion in China: Essays in Honor of Wolfram Eberhard on his Seventieth Birthday* (edited with Alvin P. Cohen), and *Oracle Bone Collections in Great Britain* (with Li Xueqin and Qi Wenxin).

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